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Protestant Prentice's LOYAL ADVICE

To all his

Fellow-Apprentices

In and about L O N D O N.

In relation to present Occurrences, and the Attempts lately
made to debauch some of them into pernicious
Undertakings and Tumults.

By T. S. APPRENTICE.

Dear Country-men and Fellow-prentices,

A S no *Squint-ey'd* Designe to drive on any *factions* Interest (the unhappy Gall and poisonous *Vitriol* which composes most of the Ink that is dayly spilt in *Pamphlets*) prompts me to this Address: so neither has the vanity of *being in Print* (that giddy Feather which moves so many Pens) any share in its production. I am not insensible how *little qualify'd* I am, both in years, Learning, and Judgment, to give *Counsel* (especially *publickly*) to others, who too much need it my self. However, conceiving some wholesome *Memento's* and *Cautions* might not unseasonably be offer'd to you in this Juncture, as well for your *own sake* as that of the *publick* Tranquility, and not observing any body yet to have condescended to that necessary pains, I shall presume in *unfeigned Love* to you all, to offer what occurs to my thoughts; which, though in it self but *weak* and *rude*, yet proceeding from one of your *own Rank and Condition*, may possibly in that respect be better accepted and regarded by you, than more *strenuous* or *digested* Reasons from another, though more *able*, yet *less agreeable* Hand. 'Tis more than probable some *Quil andish Quacks* have lately been *tramping* amongst you; (for *Pain* does not engrois all the *Poyseners*, *quelybers* attacque the *Body*, ours the *minde*) and *Fourth* is most liable (Physicians say) to *Insellion*. 'Tis therefore highly necessary to prepare you an *Antidote*, some small Dose of *Loyal healing Oyl* to expel that *Venome*, if unwarily you have happened to be *sipping* at their *Cups of Intoxication*.

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Though I hope you have better minded your *Masters Business*, and the respective Callings God hath plac'd you in, than to trifle away much of your time in Reading *Gazets* and *Currants*'s; yet I presume you cannot be ignorant, that there was sometime since by a *Miracle of Mercy* Discovers'd, a most *Damnable Plot* of the *Papists*, to Murther his Sacred Majesty, Subvert the Government, Root out the Protestant Religion in these Kingdoms, *Mossacre* the Professors thereof, and introduce *Poperie*. *Poperie*! that *Enemy to God*, by setting up *Idols To Christ*, by its new found Mediations To the *Holy Ghost*, by putting a *Pope* in his place; To the Scriptures, by its lying corrupt *Traditions*; To Reason, by its imposed *Absurdities*; To common sense, by its most foolish but most *Idolized Transubstantiation*; To all tender Consciences, by *Fire and Faggots* and to all Civil Governments that refuse to be subject to it, by *Treasons* and *Assassinations*. This monstrous detestable *Poperie*, that hath so often contrived *Englands Ruine*, and several times been at the very point of effecting it, was *That* wherewith they would again have enslaved us and our Posterity. To attest and confirm the reality and certainty of this *black Conspiracy*, we have His Majesties repeated *Proclamations*; the Votes of two several *Parliaments*, *Nomine contradicente*, *Lords Spiritual*, *Lords Temporal*, and *Commons*, all fully satisfied of it; we have the publick prayer of our Church prescribed on that occasion; the fair and convincing proofs in the *Judicial* proceedings against divers of the said Conspirators, the *flight* of several of them from Justice, and the undeniable Evidence of *Colemans Letters* under his own Hand; divers of which were never yet Printed. Nay, they have added yet further *Testimony* of the truth of their Plot, by their effrontery and unreasonable *denials* of what is so evident, and by the several *basse Arts* they have used to make it *dis-believed*, and *stifle* the Discovery: as sometimes offering to corrupt the Evidence with vast sums of Money, as *Reading* with Mr. *Bedloe*, and *Price* and *Tasbrough* with Mr. *Dugdale*; sometimes by *Suborning false Witnesses*, as *Knox* and *Lane*; but especially by the noise of an *Imaginary Conspiracy*, which themselves had hatch'd by *Hellish Forgeries*, and were to carry on by *bloody Perjuries*, to take away the *Lives* of many thousands of *Innocent Protestants*, many of them of most eminent *Quality*, approved *Loyalty*, and strictly zealous Members of the *Establish'd Church* of England, as appeared by the practise against Colonel *Manfel*; and the *Papers* taken there, and at *Mrs. Celiars Houle*, &c. And though *Providence* was pleas'd thus from time to time to lay open all these villanies; yet to shew that their *wickedness* can be excused by nothing but their *Impudence*, they to this day still go on to pursue the same methods, to out-brazen their own *Treasons*, and amule and divide the Nation with *stories*, (without the least ground) of some ill Designs on foot of the *Presbyterians*, with which *obnoxious Term* they brand all that are active against their *Traitorous projects*, and by their perpetual noise, the *witcrafts* of their many insinuating *Pamphlets*, and their *Hearding* themselves with the *Church* of England, (though still these very men are the greatest *underminers* of that excellent *Fabrick*) they have prevail'd with too many well-meaning people to credit those mischievous suggestions.

Nay, after all their baffled Attempts, they would now *bubble* in some of you to do their *drudgery* to embroil this Honourable City, (consequently the Nation) that whilst the *waters* are troubled, these *Roman Fishers* (*Peters* pretended Journey-men) may *Angle* for *Gudgeons*, and snap your unwary *Episcopal TROUTS*, into the jaws of their *Italian Leviathan*.

I am confident, that as you have been generally Educated under, so you are justly zealous for asserting the *Establish'd Government*; for certainly, the *Church* of England on its true Basis, is the best (I wish we might not say *only*) But-work in the world against *Poperie*. Let me therefore prevail with you, rightly to learn, and conscientiously to observe the *Doctrines* of our Church, and then to be so discreet, as not to close with her *Enemies*, though never so

handsomely disguised; nor to be inveigled by *Trepanding Arts*; accidentally to *weaken*, what you would willingly *Corroborate*.

Being none of the *Cabal*; I cannot specify the *particulars* of what so lately they would have put you upon; this I shall only say. That according to the best information I have had, it was not doely a *Popish Intigue*; but might have proved nothing inferior in its consequences; to any of their designed *Rogues*. To express your hatred of *Rebellion* by burning the *Kamp*, (though contrary to Law, which forbids the revival of such stuff) might possibly pass for an innocent Boyish Adventure: but pray consider who egg'd you on? Who were the *black Gentlemen* that paid your *Reckonings*? Do you think they had no farther design in it? What real reason had you to do it now, rather than at any time these twenty years past? Why must you be arrayed in *Military order*? Why stealyour *Masters Arms*? Why demolish *Meeting-houses* in such a tumultuous manner? Might you not by the same Law have pluck'd down our *Churches* too? was not the hand of *Jeab*, the finger at least of the *Jesuits* in all this? Could it have been accomplished without *Confusion*, perhaps (say, most likely) *Blood*? And if in that distraction, your *unhappy Masters* could not have compleated their aim, would they not have left you to the *Law* to suffer both the pain and scandal of being *Hang'd for Rebellion Rixers*? When you had begun, how easie was it for *French and Irish Cut-throats*, *Popish Incendiaries*, common *Thieves*, necessitous *Bullies*, and all the *Tribe of Hell* to have struck in? For whose *Rapines* and *villanies*, you only should have both the blame, and where do you think such a torrent of desolation would have stop'd? But sure you that were *wheddled* into such a *base foolish attempt*, are already sufficiently *ashamed* on't. I shall not therefore *upbraid*, but only give you some due Caution and Advice, for your better escaping such dangerous *Deceivers* for the future.

1. Their common *Bait* is lessening, if not wholly denying the *Popish Plot*, and aggravating the dangers to be expected from *Presbyterians*. As to this, you may satisfy your selves, and answer them, that the *Popish Plot* is convincingly *prov'd* and declared by *Kings, Lord, and Commons*; but of any ill Designe from *dissenting Protestants*, as it would be no less *imprudent* than wicked for them to harbour any, being the most *certain* and *expeditious* course for their own *Ruine*, so there is not the least *proof* in the world made of any such matter, unless we shall take *Madam Celler's Misal-tub* for Evidence, and *Popish Pamphlets*, of amused half-witted Protestants *Tavern-Rants* for Demonstrations. If these *Exclaimers* know of any *Presbyterian* carrying on any Plot against the King's life, and the Kingdoms peace and safety, why do they not *discover* and prosecute him, as *Dr. Oates* and others did the *Papists*? But if they do not know any such thing, why is all this *Whispering*, nay loud *Clamour*? for nothing in the world but to divert the Governments Eyes another way, and divide Protestants with Jealousies and Animosities, that they may still proceed in their own Plot, and destroy them *singly*, which would have been too strong for them *jointly*.

2. 'Tis of late become almost Proverbial with some people — I had rather be a *Papist* than a *Presbyterian*. But for Gods sake, Gentlemen, what necessity is there (unless your selves make it) that you must be *either*? Yet suppose there were, do you think that those that thus conclude, are in good earnest Sons of the Church of England? Consider a little, whether the *Papist* or the *Protestant Dissenter* stands at greatest distance from her. The *Papist* damns her for an *Heresick*, affirms her *Ministers* to be *none*, her *Sacraments* to be void, nay, allows not *Salvation* to any one of her *Members*, obtrudes *Blasphemies* and *Idolatrics* upon us, robs us of the Word of God, &c. On the other side, the *Dissenter* freely joyns in the same Faith with the Church of England, approves of all her *Articles*, and most actively asserts them, onely scruples certain *Rites* and *superstious Ceremonies*; and yet even in that with a little *condiscern-*

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son and good usage, would not be difficult to comply. Now, which of these is to be preferred or indulged by the Church of England, is easy to judge: I say to speak freely, since the Presbyterians agree with the Church of England in *Doctrine* (which is the Soul of any Church, the *Vitals* of Religion) and only differ in certain of her *External* Circumstances and *Decorations* (which are but like *Garments*, in her own apprehension and forms, and variable in mode at pleasure,) and since all *Dominions* ought to be taken from things *external* and *heavenly* part, I fear not that the Presbyterians should not be accounted and styled *Members* of the Church of England. But I would not consider who they generally are that make these *disputes*, *disturbances*, persons for the most part of a most *debauched*, *Chambers*, persons such as give no other demonstrations of their acknowledging a God, but by their profaning his holy Name with *Oaths* and *Expletives* without any notion of their affection to the Church, but debauching the *Confession* of *Reverend* in drunken frolics. How horrid and yet how frequent is to be heard a blasphemous Hell-hound cry out, *God damn me! I am for the Church of England; Boys!* Now can it be imagined that such an *Unchristian Devil* is of any Religion at all? For my own part, as I was bred with Education first under a most Loyal Father, and since with a Master whom this *Church* of England's most zealous lover both of his King and of *Episcopacy*; so I gladly own and count it my happiness to be an obedient Son of the Church of England. But when I hear such swarms of *Irreligious* *Ruffians* and *immoral* *Bores*, pretend to the same Title, did I not know that the *abominations* the lowliness of that *Church* of God, I should be half ashamed to ask her *Blessing*. But I am satisfied that she has no kindness for their Practices, so they have none for her holy *Doctrine* and righteous *Constitutions*, but these are her most real Enemies. Therefore learn to avoid the temptations of such graceless *Companions*, and hearken not to their insignificant clamours. You are many of you the Sons of *Gentlemen*, and all of you have been bred up *Protestants*; will you turn *Rebels*, disturb the Government, wrong your *Neighbours*, with the guilt of *Murder* and *Treason*, and hazard both your *Nation* and *Soul*; and all this only to humour a company of *Debauchers*, and promote the cursed Designs of Jesuitical Traitors? Will you be accessory to the Ruine of the Protestant Religion, and enslave yourselves and your Posterity to the dominating power of a villanous Popish Priest? Rather learn truly to understand the Excellency and Beauty of the Protestant Faith; read the Scriptures diligently, and keep upon your spirits a reverend Awe of God and Religion, that it may influence your Lives and Actions; this will make you Christians in earnest, worthy Sons of the Church, and a glory to your Mothers; this will make you Loyal Subjects, and good Neighbours; trusty Servants, and Honest men; this will preserve you both from *Papery* and *Fanaticism* here, and from *Hell* hereafter: which is the cordial desire and prayer

London, March 27. 1680.

Of your well-meaning and dutiful

and Friend

T. S.

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